One such purpose was suggested by observations made during the filming of a Gopher Frog in the presence of the Gopher Tortoise, *Gopherus polyphemus*, in an artificial burrow. I noticed that the frog, partially buried in sand, exhibited its "hands up," rigid-body posture when the much larger tortoise crawled over it at the bottom of the burrow. I was able to elicit the behavior by slapping the dorsum of a Gopher Frog, scratching its head with my fingernail, or pressing down on a frog's body with my hand. One function of this behavior might be to protect the Gopher Frog's eyes and dorsum from abrasion and sharp toenails.

Submitted by **D. BRUCE MEANS**, Coastal Plains Institute and Land Conservancy, 1313 Milton Street, Tallahassee, Florida, USA 32303; e-mail: means@bio.fsu.edu.

CROCODYLIA

ALLIGATOR MISSISSIPPIENSIS (American Alligator). **HOMING AND SITE FIDELITY**. Since the passage of the Lacey Act Amendment in 1969 and the Endangered Species Act in 1973, American alligator populations in Florida have increased substantially (Mazzotti and Brandt 1994. *In* Davis and Ogden, [eds.], Everglades: The Ecosystem and Its Restoration, pp. 485–505. St. Lucie Press, Delray Beach, Florida). Simultaneously, human populations and waterfront development have increased, leading to greater conflict between humans and alligators (e.g., Conover and Dubow 1997. Herpetol. Rev. 28:120–124). Several management options exist for resolving potential human-alligator conflicts, one of which is alligator translocation (e.g., Hines and Woodward 1980. Wildl. Soc. Bull. 8:234-241). However, homing by translocated alligators could negate the purpose of this management action. Juvenile alligators have been observed to home directly toward their origination site when displaced up to 10 home range diameters away, unless a major habitat barrier separated an alligator from its home site (Rodda 1984. Behav. Ecol. Sociobio. 14:241-246). Here, we augment the few data on homing following translocations with the report of an adult *A. mississippiensis* from southeastern Florida.

On 30 April 1998, we translocated an adult (2.2 m) female *A. mississipiensis* ca. 3.3 km straight-line distance from a pool on the North Fork of the Loxahatchee River (3-5 m average width) in Jonathan Dickinson State Park (JDSP; Florida) to a lake in the southwest corner of the park. The alligator was a breeding female and its pool was adjacent to human traffic, with harassing intrusions by humans being commonplace. The decision to move the alligator was based on human health and safety concerns, because she would aggressively defend her young from such (unlawful) intrusions. As required by Florida statutes, the capture and translocation of an alligator of this size was conducted by a nuisance alligator trapper (the senior author [JWW] herein) licensed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (license no. ATL 3725).

No direct waterways existed connecting the origination and relocation sites. Intervening habitat was comprised of a mix of pine-flatwoods, scrubby-flatwoods, and sand pine scrub. Eight days after translocation, the alligator was opportunistically observed in the same pool from which it had been moved. As the site of origin was not specifically monitored for the female's return, the 8 days is an upper bound on return time. Distinctive scars on its back, a missing right eye, and its size unmistakably identified this female, making it impossible to confuse with other individuals. The alligator remains in the same pool at this writing, and continues to breed annually.

The distance traveled by this alligator was not as remarkable as its ability to traverse the intervening terrain, and its ability to locate the same small pool from which it was removed. We were unable to discern the route of this animal's return to its site of origin. A water-based route would have required the female to "hopscotch" between small wet areas. However, Rodda (1984. Behav. Ecol. Sociobio. 14:241–246) observed juvenile alligators to chose direct routes towards their sites of origin, even when much easier indirect routes were available, supporting the hypothesis that alligators possess a directed navigational ability. Thus, given that no major topographic obstacles existed between the sites of origin and translocation, and the short span of time for this alligator to return, a direct return would seem logical. From a management perspective, translocation of alligators might not be successful unless a barrier to movement exists between the point of origin and translocation sites. Even if a barrier does exist, the intervening habitat near the translocation site should be evaluated to reduce the likelihood that an attempted return would place the animal in a position of conflict with humans, such as in a residential area. Hines and Woodward (1980. Wildl. Soc. Bull. 8:234–241) believed relocation to be the least economical and effective management approach for handling nuisance alligators. It might be warranted for select cases, but seems contraindicated as a general management tool.

Submitted by **JOHN W. WOOLARD**, USDA/Wildlife Services, 2820 East University Ave., Gainesville, Florida 32641, USA, **RICHARD M. ENGEMAN***, USDA/Wildlife Services, National Wildlife Research Center, 4101 LaPorte Ave, Fort Collins, Colorado 80521-2154, USA, **HENRY T. SMITH**, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Park Service, 13798 S.E. Federal Highway, Hobe Sound, Florida 33455, USA, and **MARK NELSON**, Jonathan Dickinson State Park, 16450 S.E. Federal Highway, Hobe Sound, Florida 33455, USA. *Corresponding author: richard.m.engeman@aphis.usda.gov.

LACERTILIA

AGAMA AGAMA (Red-headed Rock Agama). **NOCTURNAL ACTIVITY**. The broadly distributed anthropophilic African agamid *A. agama* is uniformly described as diurnal (Caxton-Martins and Nganwuchu 1978. J. Anat. 125:477–480; Spawls et al. 2002. A Field Guide to the Reptiles of East Africa. Academic Press. Natural World. 543 pp.). Harris (1964. The Life of the Rainbow Lizard. London, Hutchinson Tropical Monographs. 174 pp.) reported that the lizard's activity starts at sunrise and ends soon after sundown in Nigeria; the earliest activity time Harris reported was 0650 h. According to Ekundayo and Otusanya (1969. Niger. Fld. 34:83–90), activity at Lagos, Nigeria is maximal between 1000 and 1100 h, and is also high around 1800 h. Halstead (1970. Niger. Fld. 35:86–89) reported from Ife, Nigeria that activity starts, depending on the weather, between 0730 and 0830 h; between 1800 and 1900 h, they sluggishly retreat to rest. Here, we report activity in *A. agama* in the city of Mouila, Douya-Onoy Department, Ngounie Province, Gabon that is distinctly different from previ-